

SITUATION REPORT NO. 18
INCIDENT NO. 2002-009
DATE: September 04, 2002 TIME: 4:00 p.m.

TO: Governor John Hoeven
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Severe Summer Storms, Flooding - Severe thunderstorms have produced heavy rain, gusty winds, hail and flooding.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: Thus far, a total of five injuries, due to summer storm activity, have been reported to the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC).
3. DAMAGES: A United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Flash Situation Report indicated excessive rain and hail was reported in Benson County on August 26-27. Approximately four inches of rain fell in the Minnewauken area, up to five inches was reported south of Leeds, and up to four inches occurred in the York area. An estimated 325 farms and 200,730 acres of cropland were affected.

A USDA Flash Situation Report for Walsh County indicated hail and heavy rain up to five inches affected 220 farms and 228,278 acres of cropland on August 26-27.

Walsh County Emergency Management personnel estimate 250-300 homeowners in the City of Park River were impacted by heavy rains on August 27-28. Of those homeowners actually reporting to emergency management officials, one had main floor damage caused by basement flooding, one had main floor damage due to roof failure, 22 had up to five inches of water in the basement, 13 received six to 10 inches of water in the basement, and two encountered more than 10 inches of water in the basement. Several area farm residents reported water seepage or sewer backup problems.

On August 30, the Minto and Forest River areas in Walsh County received between one and one half inches of rain and lost power for a short period of time. On August 31, Walsh County received an average of one half inch of precipitation.

In Morton County on August 30, up to three-quarter inch size hail accompanied by high winds damaged and destroyed crops in a path extending east of Glen Ullin to east of Almont. On August 31, up to one-inch hail and high winds caused crop damage south of Mandan in the Fort Lincoln area. In Mandan, size and amounts of hail varied but damage was minor.

On August 31, a severe thunderstorm produced high winds and over one inch of rain in several areas within Stutsman County. Pea to nickel size hail was reported in Medina, Cleveland, Buchanan, and Jamestown. In Jamestown, lightning damaged several transformers causing power outages in many areas of the city. Several trees were damaged; one downed tree blocked a roadway. Storm sewers backed up causing ponding in some locations.

Cavalier County Emergency Management officials reported a storm on August 31 produced heavy rainfall, which caused damage to roads and culverts in Freemont Township totaling \$12,500. During the same storm, hail damaged crops in the Wales and Mt. Carmel areas.

On September 4, the level of Devils Lake measured 1,447.19 feet and Stump Lake measured 1,413.69 feet.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTIONS: Thus far, the American Red Cross has opened 43 cases in Park River and one in Grand Forks associated with flooding. Personnel are assessing minor home repair, structural repair, and water heater replacement.

Two individuals affiliated with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints have assisted several Park River families with debris removal.

Jamestown residents assisted in removing the debris caused by the August 31 storm.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: Officials activated the Walsh County Emergency Operations Center during the Labor Day weekend. Walsh County personnel have opened 10 miles of the approximate 30 miles of county and township roads that were previously closed. Walsh County officials conducted a Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA); the estimate for 27 sites totaled \$21,283.

Pembina County officials provided clean-up kits to Walsh County for distribution to impacted residents.

Jamestown Public Works personnel placed stop signs at intersections where traffic lights no longer functioned due to a loss of power.

State Highway Patrol officers cleared traffic barriers and signs, downed by strong winds, in a construction zone along Highway 52/281 to prevent hazardous travel conditions.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No change from previous reports.

8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: On August 30, personnel from Ottertail Power Cooperative restored power to the Minto and Forest River areas in Walsh County. On August 30-31 Ottertail Power Cooperative staff returned power to Jamestown.

9. OTHER: A Fargo resident who tested positive for West Nile Virus has died. Until the Centers for Disease Control confirms the test, West Nile Virus has been designated as the probable cause of death. In addition to the probable death, four humans, 361 horses, and 31 birds have tested positive.

Appropriate state, local and private entity emergency operations plans and procedures have been implemented.

Situation Reports published by North Dakota Emergency Management are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

Douglas C. Friez, State Director